

## SWINDON VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### Free School Meals – URGENT

The government are changing Free School Meals (FSM) for new applicants.

**From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, if you are granted FSM but your financial circumstances then change, there is no protection, and you will no longer be entitled to FSM.**

As you are aware all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals, however, we are urging **EVERY** family who are in receipt of any of the below benefits to apply **before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 so that you are protected until they leave primary school.**

- Income Support
- **Income-based** Jobseeker's Allowance
- **Income-related** Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (**provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190**)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - **your household income must be less than £7,400 a year / £616 per month (after tax and not including any benefits you get)**

*If your child is currently in receipt of Free School Meals:*

- Since 1 April 2018, all existing free school meals claimants have continued to receive free school meals whilst Universal Credit is rolled out. This applies even if their earnings rise above the threshold during that time.
- In addition, any pupil gaining eligibility for free school meals after 1 April 2018 will be protected against losing free school meals until March 2025.
- After March 2025, any existing claimants that no longer meet the eligibility criteria at that point (because they are earning above the threshold or are no longer a recipient of Universal Credit) will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education (i.e. primary or secondary)

If you're entitled to this, the school receive extra funding, and we also give the following extra benefits to you whilst you are entitled:

- £30 towards SVPS uniform every academic year
- 50% discount on trips, swimming, school residentials
- Continued free milk once your child reaches age 5
- Continued free meals throughout school

If you are in receipt of any of these benefits and have not yet applied - you are missing out on all of the discounts we can offer, so would urge you to apply urgently.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

It only takes a few minutes to do, and if you need any help, do get in touch with Mrs Phelps in the school office.

Thank you.